

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 188582

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: REPORT OF VISIT OF U.S. COMMISSIONER GENERAL

J. WELLES HENDERSON OF THE INTERNATIONAL
EXPOSITION ON THE ENVIRONMENT WITH VENEZUELA
AMBASSADOR TO U.S. ANDRES AGUILAR NEWDALEY
ON SEPTEMBER 18, 1973

COMMISSIONER GENERAL HENDERSON AND OTHERS MET WITH THE
AMBASSADOR IN THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY TO EMPHASIZE THE
IMPORTANCE OF VENEZUELA'S PARTICIPATION IN EXPO '74 AND
TO ALERT THE AMBASSADOR TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S
PLANNED TRIP TO CARACAS. IN JULY, A MEETING WAS ORIGINALLY
SCHEDULED BY UNDER SECRETARY TABOR WITH MR. LUIS UGUETO,
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, VENEZUELAN EMBASSY, BUT DUE TO LAST
MINUTE CONFLICT THE UNDER SECRETARY HAD TO CANCEL. THERE-
AFTER MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL'S STAFF MET WITH
THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES WHO STATED THAT THE VENEZUELAN
DECISION WOULD BE STRONGLY INFLUENCED IF MEXICO DECIDES
TO PARTICIPATE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 188582

DURING HIS SEPTEMBER 18 MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR,
THE FOLLOWING POINTS WERE CALLED TO HIS ATTENTION
BY THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL:

1. MEXICO ANNOUNCED THEIR PARTICIPATION SEPTEMBER 9
AND SIGNED A CONTRACT.
2. EXPLAIN DECISION OF EXPO '74 ORGANIZERS TO BROADEN
THEME WHEREBY COUNTRY EXHIBITS COULD EMPHASIZE HISTORICAL
LANDMARKS OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WHICH LEND THEMSELVES
TO ATTRACTING TOURISTS AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT.
3. UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO IMPACT ON WESTERN U.S. CONCERNING:
 - A) INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
 - B) TOURISM I.E.; EXPECT 1 MILLION TOURISTS FROM STATE
OF CALIFORNIA ALONE.
4. EXPECTED ATTENDANCE ABOUT 5 MILLION AND EXPECTED TV
VIEWERS IN U.S. AND CANADA ABOUT 100 MILLION.
5. VENEZUELA USED THE U.S. TRADE CENTER IN MILAN FOR
AN AGRICULTURAL SHOW.
6. OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN AND CONSULT WITH VARIOUS
EXPERTS IN CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIA AND
CONFERENCES.
7. MODEST COST OF PARTICIPATION. IT IS IMPORTANT TO
CORRECT THE IMPRESSION THAT PARTICIPATION WOULD REQUIRE
\$2.5 MILLION. THIS IS WHOLLY INCORRECT. THE VENEZUELAN
GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY AT ONE POINT WAS UNDER THIS MISCON-
CEPTION. MINIMUM SPACE REQUIREMENT IS 4,000 SQ. FT. IN
A BUILDING PRESENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION. THIS SPACE
WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY \$35,000 AND ANY ADDITIONAL
COSTS DEPEND ON WHAT THE COUNTRY INTENDS TO EXHIBIT.

THE AMBASSADOR WAS TOLD OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY DOBBIN'S
TRIP TO CARACAS AND THE FACT THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY
WAS TRYING TO SCHEDULE A MEETING WITH MR. HECTOR HERNANDEZ
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 188582

CARBANO, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT, FOR SEPTEMBER 28 AT
4:00 P.M. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT MR. CARBANO WAS THE
KEY DECISION MAKER AND HAD FINAL SAY ON VENEZUELAN
PARTICIPATION IN EXPO. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT
ALL EXPO MATERIAL RECEIVED BY HIS EMBASSY IN JULY HAD BEEN
FORWARDED VIA HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY TO THE MINISTRY OF
DEVELOPMENT WHICH HANDLES ALL OVERSEAS TRADE FAIR
PARTICIPATION AND TOURISM PROMOTION. THE AMBASSADOR SAID

THAT HE HAD ALREADY RECOMMENDED PARTICIPATION TO HIS GOVERNMENT AND THAT HE WOULD DO SO AGAIN AND WILL WRITE TO MR. CARBANO HIMSELF ABOUT THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S VISIT. HE POINTED OUT THAT MOST OF HIS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE PRESENTLY VERY BUSY CAMPAIGNING FOR THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED DECEMBER 9, 1973, OUT WAS IN HOPE THAT THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILL BE ABLE TO SEE MR. CARBANO. THE AMBASSADOR MENTIONED THAT MR. CARBANO IS VERY INFLUENTIAL IN HIS GOVERNMENT AND IS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF THE PRESIDENT.

THE AMBASSADOR STATED:

"I THINK WE SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN EXPO '74, OUR COUNTRY HAS BEEN A PIONEER IN POLLUTION CONTROL LEGISLATION. IN THE EARLY 1920'S WE PASSED AN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW PROHIBITING THE OIL POLLUTION OF OUR LAKES. WE ALSO PASSED A LAW IN 1922 AGAINST OIL SPILLAGE BY VESSELS."

THE AMBASSADOR WENT ON TO MENTION THE CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP HIS GOVERNMENT HAS HAD WITH THE U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. HE SAID THAT THERE WAS A RECENT SHOW ON THIS THEME IN HIS COUNTRY AND COMMISSIONER GENERAL HENDERSON STATED THAT POSSIBLY SOME OF THIS EXISTING EXHIBITS COULD BE USED AT EXPO '74.

THE AMBASSADOR WAS PLANNING A TRIP TO THE WEST COAST TO VISIT TWO OF HIS CONSULATE GENERALS AND WOULD ALSO LIKE TO VISIT THE EXPO SITE. HOWEVER, HIS TRIP IS NOT PLANNED UNTIL LATE OCTOBER WHICH MIGHT BE TOO LATE TO INFLUENCE THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 188582

PARTICIPATE.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN CARACAS IS REQUESTED TO CONFIRM THE MEETING OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY DOBBIN WITH MR. CARBANO. RUSH

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